Indo-US talks

*334. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether as part of an expanded framework of dialogue between the two sides, India and the United States would share notes on China;

(b) if so, whether both India and US have decided to expand the horizon of their talks by including discussions about the regional situation in the sub-continent;

(c) whether several Government officials visited US and had discussions on the situation in Sri Lanka, Nepal and China; and

(d) if so, to what extent, both the countries have taken a decision regarding China?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Regular exchange of bilateral visits has provided opportunity to the two Governments to exchange views on all regional and international issues of mutual interest, including developments in Nepal, Sri Lanka and China.

(d) The two Governments will continue their discussion on these subjects, including on China.

Additional employment generation

*335. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Labour, in its 11th Report of 2001, has observed stagnation in creating additional employment generation particularly for the educated youth;

(b) whether the quantum of unemployment has increased from one plan period to the other;

(c) whether Government would achieve the goal of rendering unemployment to a negligible proportion by 2003; and

(d) if so, to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Committee had expressed concern over the unemployment scenario in the country particularly for the educated youth.

(b) As per the quinquennial sample surveys carried out by National Sample Survey Organisation, estimated number of openly unemployed in the country has gone up from approximately 7.5 million in 1993-94 to 9.0 million in 1999-2000.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, Government have taken steps to reduce the incidence of unemployment in the country. The Special Group headed by Dr. S.P. Gupta, Member, Planning Commission was constituted to suggest strategy and programme for creation of one crore employment opportunities per year during each year of the tenth Plan period. The Group proposed creation of 5 crore job opportunities over the tenth Plan period. Out of these, nearly 2 crore have to come from specific employment generation programmes and 3 crore from growth buoyancy. On the basis of the pattern of employment generation as proposed by the Special Group, it is estimated that unemployment will be substantially reduced by the end of the Eleventh Plan.

Employment opportunities during Tenth Plan

*336. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a target has been fixed to create five crores additional employment and self-employment opportunities during the Tenth Five Year Plan period; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The Planning Commission constituted a "Special Group on Targeting 10 Million Employment Opportunities per year" under the Chairmanship of Dr. S.P. Gupta, Member, Planning Commission. The Special Group gave recommendations for